

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4831

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TAGS: EFIN, SPON, SP

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY SIMON'S MEETING
WITH FINANCE MINISTER VILLAR MIR.

1. SPANISH PRESS COVERAGE OF FEB 27 MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY SIMON AND FINANCE MINISTER VILLAR MIR WAS NONCONTROVERSIAL AND FAIRLY EXTENSIVE. THE SECRETARY WAS QUOTED IN MALLORCA'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE "DAILY BULLETIN" AS ENDORSING THE RECENT DEVALUATION OF THE PESETA, OPTIMISTIC OVER THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT ON THE SPANISH ECONOMY, AND IN ACCORD WITH SPANISH ECONOMIC POLICY WHICH HE TERMED "VERY POSITIVE" THE PAPER REPORTS HE STRESSED THAT "THE SOLUTION TO WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DOES NOT REST WITH THE U.S. OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, BUT STARTS WITH THE POLICIES OF EACH COUNTRY, WHICH MUST PURSE A BALANCED FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICY AND STOP MAKING SHORT RUN POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT GIVE SOME SHORT TERM PLEASURE BUT ONLY END UP WITH SERIOUS MISERY FOR ALL.

2. THE MADRID AFTERNOON PAPER "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT). QUOTED THE SECRETARY AS SAYING THE TALKS WERE PREPARATORY TO FULLER DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH AND COVERED THE RECENT DEVALUATIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND THE EXIM BANK, WHICH HE SAID HAD A VERY POSITIVE VIEW OF SPAIN AND THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES HERE. ACCORDING TO "INFORMACIONES",
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VILLAJQMIR SAID THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY SIMON SET A

POSSIBLE AGENDA OF ITEMS TO BE EXAMINED, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING LOANS. VILLAR MIR ALSO SAID UPCOMING TALKS WERE AIMED AT REACHING DEFINITE AGREEMENTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH.

3. MADRID DAILY "ABC" (MONARCHIST) QUOTES VILLAR MIR ON HIS JANUARY 24 MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AS SAYING, "WE ESTABLISHED A PROGRAM OF SUCCESSIVE CONTACTS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES". MEETING WITH SECRETARY SIMON, HE SAID, SET AGENDA FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON "LOANS, AND OUR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES--- (AND) IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THERE WILL BE VISITS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AIMED AT REACHING DEFINITE, REALISTIC AGREEMENTS".

4. MADRID DAILY "YA" (CATHOLIC) QUOTES VILLAR MIR AS HAVING "A VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF THE CLIMATE FOR COOPERATION NOW EXISTING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN."
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